Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 4 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 8, 11 and 13 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus for recording an image by applying ink on a recording medium with at least one recording head, the recording head discharging ink by applying thermal energy, comprising:

a timer for measuring a recording downtime when an image-recording operation of the recording head is interrupted during the recording operation and is then resumed; ~~and~~

control means for performing a temperature control of the recording head by applying drive pulses before the resumption of the recording operation, in accordance with the length of the recording downtime measured by said timer[[,]]; and

a temperature sensor for detecting a temperature of the recording head,

wherein, with said control means, the recording head is heated before the resumption of the recording operation to a temperature of the recording head detected by said temperature sensor before the interruption of the recording operation and is further heated in accordance with the length of the measured recording downtime, and

wherein, with said control means, the number of drive pulses to be applied to the recording head is increased as the recording downtime becomes longer.

2. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein interruption of the recording operation during an image-recording operation is executed midway through a recording operation of a continuous image.

3. (Original) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein, with the temperature control, an electrothermal conversion member disposed in the recording head is heated to the extent of not causing ink in the recording head to be discharged therefrom.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said temperature sensor ~~for detecting~~ detects temperatures of the recording head before and after the interruption of the recording operation, wherein, with said control means, the temperature control of the recording head is performed before the resumption of the recording operation in accordance with detected temperatures before and after the interruption of the recording operation and is further performed in accordance with the length of a recording downtime detected thereafter.

6. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one recording head comprises a plurality of recording heads for different recording ink colors, and with said control means, the temperature control of each of the plurality of recording heads for the different recording ink colors is performed in accordance with the measured length of interruption of the recording operation.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A control method of a recording apparatus for recording an image by applying ink on a recording medium with at least one recording head, the recording head discharging ink by applying thermal energy, comprising the steps of:

measuring a recording downtime with a timer when an image-recording operation of the recording head is temporally interrupted during the recording operation and is then resumed; ~~and~~

performing a temperature control of the recording head by applying drive pulses before the resumption of the recording operation in accordance with the length of the recording downtime measured by the timer[[,]]; and

detecting a temperature of the recording head,

wherein, in the step of performing the temperature control of the recording head, the recording head is heated before the resumption of the recording operation to a temperature detected by a temperature sensor before the interruption of the recording operation, and is further heated in accordance with the length of the measured recording downtime, and

wherein, in the step of performing the temperature control of the recording head, the number of drive pulses to be applied to the recording head is increased as the recording downtime becomes longer.

9. (Original) The control method according to Claim 8, wherein interruption of the recording operation during an image-recording operation is executed midway through a recording operation of a continuous image.

10. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 8, wherein, in the step of performing the temperature control of the recording head, an electrothermal conversion member disposed in the recording head is heated to the extent of not causing ink in the recording head to be discharged therefrom.

11. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 8, ~~further comprising the step of detecting a temperature of the recording head,~~ wherein, in the step of performing the temperature control of the recording head, the recording head is heated before the resumption of the recording operation ~~up~~ to a temperature exceeding that detected by a temperature sensor before the interruption of the recording operation, and an extent to which the temperature exceeds that before the interruption of the recording operation varies in accordance with the length of the measured recording downtime.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The control method according to Claim 8, ~~further comprising~~ wherein in the temperature detecting step ~~of detecting~~ temperatures of the recording head are detected before and after the interruption of the recording operation, ~~wherein~~ and, in the step of performing the temperature control of the recording head, the temperature control of the recording head is performed before the resumption of the recording head in accordance with detected temperatures of the recording head before and after the interruption of the recording operation and is further performed in accordance with the length of a recording downtime detected thereafter.

14. (Previously Presented) The control method according to Claim 8, wherein the at least one recording head comprises a plurality of recording heads for different recording ink colors, and, in the step of performing the temperature control of the plurality of recording heads for the different recording ink colors, the heating control of each recording head is performed in accordance with the measured length of interruption of the recording operation.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).